

TOP SECRET

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18 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 18 September 1969

ADD/I provided the Director with an OCI memorandum resulting from the debriefing of Ambassador Elbrick in which he described in detail the character and nature of his kidnapers.

Godfrey called attention to a press item alleging that Damansky Island was essentially destroyed by fire but added that photography of the Island showed only craters.

DD/S reported that all preparations have been made for today's Annual Awards Ceremony.

DD/S briefed on the results of a recently completed security survey of the Headquarters building. In response to the Director's request he itemized its major findings and attached particular significance to the notion that, if the building itself can be made secure, there may be fewer requirements for expensive equipment to make internal communications (telephones, etc.) secure. The Director welcomed the report and endorsed pursuing its findings.

K1 Carver noted that [] appeared on television last night in support of his case defending those involved in the Green Beret case.

Maury noted that Tom Braden was on CBS radio this morning and went on to describe Braden's commentary on the Green Beret case. Goodwin noted that he hopes to get a transcript of the program.

K1 Bross noted that DIA has produced a movie which draws heavily upon [] completed ABM study. He noted that the study was under way for some time, having been precipitated by a BOB request.

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Executive Director noted that according to information received [REDACTED] it is probable that the Director will receive a favorable response to his 28 August letter to Deputy Secretary Packard requesting two C-130 aircraft to replace our antiquated C-118's.

DDCI reported that he will be meeting with those concerned again today on Secretary Laird's response [REDACTED]

The Director noted that this morning he received a number of NSC memoranda and letters and expressed his concern that, although this type of correspondence is classified Top Secret-Eyes Only, the stamped security classification is not particularly prominent. He noted that he will be routing this correspondence to those concerned as he has in the past and asked that particularly careful attention be given to its secure handling.

The Director called attention to Al-ahram's report on Nasser's health and noted that he presumes Nasser is in poor health in that it was reported in Al-ahram. Godfrey commented that they have no confirming information but that the topic is receiving close attention.

The Director called attention to a report [REDACTED] on NVN leadership [REDACTED]. In response to the Director's question Carver noted that it is a good report, and the Director asked that the report be attributed to [REDACTED] when published.

Goodwin related that the only inquiry to date on Stewart Alsop's piece in the 22 September issue of Newsweek regarding "beehives" (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 16 September 1969) was received from the London Times correspondent. He responded to the inquiry very much along the lines suggested by the Director on 16 September.

[REDACTED]

L. K. White

TOP SECRET

Controversial Soviet Newsmen Hints Russians Might Launch Attack on China

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Sept. 17 — Victor Louis, the controversial Moscow correspondent of The London Evening News, has strongly hinted that the Soviet Union might make a surprise attack on China.

In a dispatch by Mr. Louis, a Soviet citizen believed to have close connections with the Soviet secret police, the suggestion was advanced that whether or not the Russians attacked the Chinese nuclear test site Lop Nor in Sinkiang was only "a question of strategy."

Mr. Louis' dispatch said: "Some circles in Eastern Europe are asking why the doctrine that Russia was justified in interfering in Czechoslovakia's affairs a year ago should not be extended to

China. Events in the past year have confirmed that the Soviet Union is adhering to the doctrine that socialist countries have the right to interfere in each other's affairs in their own interest or those of others who are threatened.

"The fact that China is many times larger than Czechoslovakia and might offer active resistance is, according to these Marxist theoreticians, no reason for not applying the doctrine. Whether or not the Soviet Union will dare to attack Lop Nor, China's nuclear center, is a question of strategy, and so the world would only learn about it afterwards."

"The appearance on Chinese territory of underground radio stations criticizing Mao indicates the degree of unification of anti-Mao forces within the country. It is quite possible that these forces could produce a leader who would ask other socialist countries for 'fraternal help.'"

Mr. Louis said it was a common assumption among well-informed sources in Moscow that Soviet nuclear weapons were aimed at Chinese nuclear facilities.

The increasing number of border incidents and the way they are being handled, Mr. Louis said, shows that the Russians prefer using rockets to manpower.

For example, he said, when the Chinese attempted to occupy an island, "the whole sur-

face of the island was burned together with any Chinese troops and equipment there."

A War of Nerves

By HARRISON SALISBURY

Victor Louis' suggestion that the Soviet Union may carry out a sneak attack on China's nuclear facilities appears to be part of a broadening war of nerves by Moscow against Peking.

Mr. Louis has in the past carried out special tasks in the field of foreign propaganda, apparently at the behest of the Soviet K.G.B., or secret police, or the Soviet foreign office, or both.

His dispatch echoed a circular letter that was distributed to foreign Communist parties and Eastern European Communist governments shortly before Sept. 1 in which Moscow raised the question of a possible pre-emptive strike against China.

Whether Moscow seriously contemplates an attack or is seeking to bring pressure on China by such a threat cannot easily be determined, but the Chinese have reacted as though the threat is genuine.

Brezhnev, Thesis Recalled

Mr. Louis' dispatch put the pre-emptive attack into the ideological framework of the thesis advanced by the Soviet party Secretary, Leonid I. Brezhnev, at the time of the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia when he proclaimed the right of "socialist coun-

tries" to intervene in each other's internal affairs.

The doctrine of intervention has been castigated by Peking, which has warned all Communist countries that the doctrine means that Moscow has arrogated to itself the right to intervene in any country in any manner it desires.

Mr. Louis' reference to a possible attack on Lop Nor and his statement that the "world would only learn about it afterwards" coincided with the Soviet circular letter's suggestion of a sudden attack on Chinese facilities.

Mr. Louis' report of underground anti-Mao radio stations in China is not borne out by other sources. Independent observers believe the stations are situated on Soviet territory and are part of the general war of the airwaves being carried out along the Soviet-Chinese frontier.

His suggestion of a "leader" arising in China who would request Soviet intervention matched what the Russians thought would happen in Czechoslovakia — but didn't. There has been no sign that any pro-Russian Chinese opposition to Mao Tse-tung exists or is likely to rise.

It is not known if the dispatch by Mr. Louis, who last week was the first to report the visit of Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin to Peking, reflects actual discussions in Moscow of military moves. But it seems certain that the Soviet Union wishes to convince Peking of

the genuine possibility of a sudden strike. The Russians presumably hope to compel the Chinese to enter into meaningful discussions of Chinese-Soviet differences, with the implicit threat that the alternative is nuclear war.

Meeting With Chou Shown

MOSCOW, Sept. 17 (Reuters) — Moscow television tonight showed the meeting between Premier Kosygin and the Chinese Premier Chou En-lai in Peking last Thursday.

The film showed the Soviet Premier walking across the runway at Peking airport toward Mr. Chou. The two men and their aides shook hands briefly, with slight smiles. The next sequence showed the two sitting side by side in a bare room, apparently in the airport building.

The final sequence showed Kosygin and Mr. Chou shaking hands again just before the

Soviet Premier's departure. But this time the two men used both hands to grip each other's arm and pumped their hands up and down enthusiastically for several seconds.